

compromise that comes out of the need of the statistician and the reactions of the advisory committee and the people in charge of the census as to what is practical to ask people to provide.

Mr. ROMNEY. It may not be a question of whether there should be additional categories. It may be a question of fewer categories. But my basic point is, how can the analysis be meaningful when these individual components in the columns do not seem to be compatible and would fluctuate independently?

Mr. RANDALL. The first two categories are reasonably clear cut, and subject to roughly the same general influence. I mean each one is separate to a set of influences. The last two are not nearly so clear cut.

Mr. ROMNEY. These are the ones I had specific reference to.

Mr. RANDALL. Well, my reaction is, this is not as good as I would like to have, but it is the best they will give me and I make do with the best I can get.

Mr. ECKLER. If I may supplement this, Mr. Romney, I think it is true that whenever a census is taken, it may happen to fall in a year which is high in the business cycle or low in the business cycle or somewhere in the middle. So the results may not be, strictly average.

And in interpreting the results of the census and the benchmarks that are provided, allowance has to be made for the fact that it may be unduly high because we were at a very active period or, conversely, unduly low because we are at a low period. The only way to get away from this is to move toward annual surveys, which would give information for each year, but certainly for a smaller number of geographic areas.

And to some extent the Department of Agriculture does move in that direction with its annual surveys, but this is a good point which you really cannot get away from in any census. You may happen to hit a year which is quite extreme.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Eckler and the other witnesses. The Chair would like to thank you for your cooperation and your excellent presentation, and for your willingness to accept the suggestions that we have made, and we would also like to state that we hope there will be an awareness in other agencies of the Government such as you obviously have for this problem, the problem for the need for the collection of information as well as the very great necessity of protecting the people that we are collecting the information on. And so the Chair would like to thank the three witnesses. You are excused.

Mr. ECKLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(The following were later submitted for inclusion in the record:)

STATEMENT OF ANGUS McDONALD, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, our attention has recently been called to the fact that certain persons assigned by the Census Bureau of the United States have required farmers to answer certain questions which in our opinion, are an invasion of their privacy. We are referring to questions addressed to farm men and women in regard to income of persons who may be employed by and living in the home of the farmer.

For example, the farmer is required to ascertain the income of such hired men and women in addition to the income derived by employment on the farm. One can easily imagine such questions would prove embarrassing in certain instances,